

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05475 121335Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W
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P 121309Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8250
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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USMTN
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, AS
SUBJECT: MTN: AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN
MINISTER, R. V. GARLAND

1. AS PART OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS APRIL 10, AMB-
ASSADOR STRAUSS SPENT A FRANK AND PRODUCTIVE HALF-HOUR
WITH AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIONS,
R. V. GARLAND. ATTENDING THE MEETING WITH GARLAND WAS A
SENIOR MEMBER OF THE TRADE AND RESOURCES MINISTRY WORKING
ON MTN MATTERS (MEERE), AMBASSADOR FOGARTY, AND A DIVISION
HEAD FROM GARLAND'S OFFICE (TEESE).

2. STRAUSS STATED THAT HE WAS SOLIDLY IN AGREEMENT WITH
GARLAND ON THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS IN THE MTN ON
AGRICULTURE. HE REMINDED GARLAND OF FARMER UNREST IN THE
U.S. AND THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON A CONGRESS THAT
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ALREADY CONSIDERED A MEANINGFUL AGRICULTURAL PACKAGE
ESSENTIAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, STRAUSS REGRETTED THAT WE
HAD RECEIVED SUCH A SERIOUSLY DISAPPOINTING OFFER FROM THE
AUSTRALIANS AT THIS STAGE. GARLAND TRIED, IN REPLY, TO
PUT A FRESH FACE ON THEIR OFFER, FOCUSING ON BENEFITS OUR
TRADE HAS ENJOYED BECAUSE OF THE 1973 UNILATERAL AUSTRA-
LIAN REDUCTIONS, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY DECLARING THAT

ACTION ON THE TOBACCO MIXING REGULATIONS WAS "AN AUSTRALIAN CHIP THAT WAS SQUARELY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TABLE." HE WANTED THE U.S. TO BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR OFFER ON WOOL COULD NOT CONSTITUTE THE OTHER HALF OF A SELF-BALANCED DEAL ON THE TOBACCO MIXING REGULATIONS.

3. GARLAND ASKED WHETHER HIS COUNTRY'S REQUEST FOR BEEF WAS BEING CONSIDERED. STRAUSS REPLIED THAT NOW WAS NO TIME FOR HIM TO START DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS ON MORE LIBERAL BEEF IMPORTS, BUT THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD IMPROVE IN SEVERAL MONTHS. STRAUSS SAID ONE FACTOR THAT MIGHT HELP HIM WITH CONGRESS AT A LATER STAGE WAS BEING ABLE TO REPORT ELIMINATION OF AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS LIMITING SALES OF U.S. HIGH-QUALITY BEEF. GARLAND, IN A STATEMENT THAT CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO HIS OWN DELEGATION, PROMISED THAT THIS WAS AN IRRITANT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH WOULD SOON BE AMELIORATED.

4. THE AUSTRALIANS WERE ASKED THEIR VIEWS ON THE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS UNDER DISCUSSION AND WHETHER THEY FELT THESE MIGHT BE USED TO GAIN MORE DISCIPLINE OVER AGRICULTURAL TRADE BY PROVIDING, INTER ALIA, A MEANS OF LIMITING THE USE OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES. GARLAND REPLIED THAT AS A MATTER OF POLICY AUSTRALIA LOOKS FAVORABLY ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. HE TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HAND STRAUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A PAPER CONTAINING AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTIONS FOR GENERAL DISCIPLINES OVER THE USE OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES ON ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (SEE SEPTTEL). LOOKING BEYOND THE OVERALL COMMODITY QUESTION TO THEIR SPECIAL INTEREST IN MEAT, TEESE EXPANDED ON GARLAND'S STATEMENT BY REMINDING US THAT AUSTRALIA WAS STILL FEARFUL THAT THE MEAT ARRANGEMENT IN ITS FINAL FORM WOULD GIVE THE EC LEGAL COVER TO TAKE (SAFEGUARD) ACTIONS AGAINST IMPORTS OF BEEF. SUCH A RESULT MIGHT MORE THAN OFFSET ANY SHORT-TERM GAINS AUSTRALIA COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE THROUGH IMPROVED BILATERAL ACCESS COMMITMENTS FOR ITS BEEF.

5. THE SESSION WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE PROMISE THAT THE GENEVA DELEGATIONS WOULD MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO OPEN A MORE SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE ON HOW TO IMPROVE OUR RESPECTIVE OFFERS TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF BILATERAL BALANCE.

6. DRAFTED BY MARSH. MCDONALD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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